

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

ACT with writing

New:

Final Preparations for the Initial Test Window

The initial test window for the ACT begins March 9. All testing staff must be trained prior to administration. **Test books and approved accommodation materials are specific to each test window and may not be used in subsequent windows.** Do not hold on to paper test books from test window one to use for test window two or three. Retain answer documents and order new test books for the makeup testing. For schools testing online, prepare your online test sessions and pre-cache content in advance. DPI strongly encourages running a mock administration.

Test Window One Dates:

March 9 Paper Administration

March 9-12, 15-19 Paper Administration for Accommodations

March 9-11, 16-18 Online Testing (Standard and Online Accommodations)

Emergency and Inclement Weather Policy

Please review, print, and share the **ACT Emergency and Inclement Weather Plan** found on the [DPI ACT Resource webpage](#). This plan provides instructions to schools on what to do if school is delayed or closed on test day due to weather or another emergency.

Reminders:

ACT Late Consideration Request Window

The late consideration request window for accommodations and supports will end **March 5**.

Requests for reasons other than those listed in the Late Consideration Request Form will not be reviewed. If you have a new student whose former school submitted an accommodation request and it was approved, ACT will transfer the accommodation materials to your school's test materials order once you add the student to PANext.

MyACT Update

Students can now register for a MyACT account with their student codes using MyACT. OEA has created and will continue to update the *MyACT Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* document as new information becomes available. This document is available on the [DPI ACT Resource webpage](#) and provides resources and answers to common questions that may arise during the MyACT registration process.

Aspire

Reminders:

Accommodations:

Test Coordinators should complete the Personal Needs Profile (PNP) in the Aspire PANext portal for each student needing an accommodation or EL support for Aspire Spring 2021 testing. Instructions for completing the PNPs are outlined in the [Aspire Test Coordinator Manual](#).

All PNPs for paper testing must be entered by **March 5** to ensure barcodes are received and testing materials are shipped in a timely matter.

Testing Hours:

Districts have the option to administer Aspire during the evening and on weekends. Districts do not need special permission for Aspire testing during extended hours. Please be aware that no help desk or technical support will be available from ACT or DPI during extended testing hours. DACs should have district/school technology staff and back-up plans in place prior to any test administration during extended hours. DPI encourages districts to review technology requirements and run a Mock Administration within the [Aspire Testing Training Website](#) prior to testing. Please see the [Configuration section](#) on the ACT Aspire webpage for site readiness resources.

Chat with an Expert Webinar

Register for the March 10, 2:30 pm, [Chat with an Expert webinar](#). The webinar will be recorded and posted to the [DPI Aspire Trainings webpage](#) for those who cannot attend the live session.

Technology Readiness

As the start of the ACT Aspire assessment window draws near, it is important that your test site meets the technical requirements *before* testing begins. Please review the [ACT Aspire Schedule of Events](#) for tasks and deadlines to complete for technical readiness. If you have not already done so, make sure to invite your district technology coordinator to both the [Aspire training website](#) and the live [production site](#). Use the resources under the [Configuration section](#) on the Wisconsin ACT Aspire Webpage to configure systems for Aspire testing.

ACT Aspire for Non-Choice Students

Schools that elect to test their non-choice students with ACT Aspire will need to contact ACT directly to order tests for these students. Ordering information can be found at: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-aspire.html#get-aspire>. Schools will not need to order tests for their choice students as DPI automatically loads the choice students into the testing portal.

Forward Exam

Reminders:

Test Set-up Available on March 8

Beginning on March 8, DACs and SACs will be able to print test tickets, edit or create test sessions, edit student data, and enter accessibility features on an individual student basis in the DRC INSIGHT Portal. **These tasks cannot be completed prior to March 8.** DRC will put all students into test sessions the week of March 1-5.

Forward Exam Q&A Webinar #3

On March 10, at 1:00 pm, there will be an optional Q&A webinar session that will provide an opportunity for Assessment and Technology Coordinators to ask DPI and DRC staff questions

about test set-up, administration, or technology. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the [Forward Exam Trainings webpage](#) for those who cannot attend the live session. On March 10, use this [link to join the Forward Exam Q&A webinar session](#).

Extended Testing Hours

Forward Exam testing is accessible from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Districts may now opt to test students, in-person, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings until 8:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm during the testing window. **Districts should be aware that no help desk or technical support will be available from DRC or DPI for testing during extended hours.** In order to utilize the extended hours, DACs must complete and submit the [Forward Exam - Extended Testing Hours Request Form](#) for their district. The request form must be submitted a minimum of one week prior to the planned extended hour testing day..

Forward Exam for Non-Choice Students

CESA 6 will again be overseeing the process for schools that wish to test their non-choice students. Ordering information can be found at: <https://www.cesa6.org/services/wi-forward-exam/order-form.cfm>.

See the [Forward Exam webpage](#) for calendar dates, information, and resources.

Assessment and Accountability COVID-19 Related Updates

For assessment and accountability COVID-19 Updates please visit:

- [COVID-19 - Accountability Updates and Resources](#)
- [COVID-19 - Assessment Updates and Resources](#)
- [COVID-19 Assessment FAQ](#)

ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATES

Accountability

New:

Preview Report Feedback Survey

Earlier this year, OEA released secure accountability preview reports directly to schools and districts in [SAFE, the Secure Access File Exchange](#). We also posted sample preview reports on the [Accountability Resources webpage](#). As a reminder, preview reports are **not report cards**. These informational reports use data from prior years (i.e., 2018-19 assessment results) to demonstrate future report card design and calculation changes that our team has been working on with our Accountability Advisory Group and other state and national experts and stakeholders.

As we proceed with this work, we have created a survey to gather feedback on these changes demonstrated in the preview reports. Please use the Preview Report Feedback Survey form available on the [Accountability Resources webpage](#) to provide OEA with feedback and please share this form with your school and district communities. We are planning to close this survey on April 2nd.

If you have questions about the preview report survey, please contact Patrick Chambers at Patrick.Chambers@dpi.wi.gov.



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March 2021 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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